

THE PRINCIPAL
A C T S
OF THE
General Assembly
OF THE
C H U R C H
O F
SCOTLAND;

Conveened at *Edinburgh*, the 23d Day of *May*, 1765.

Collected and extracted from the Records by the Clerk thereof.



E D I N B U R G H,

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Scotland. M,DCC,LXV.

ACTS
OF
THE
SCOTTISH

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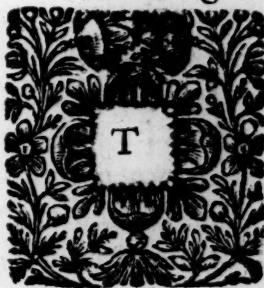
THE PRINCIPAL
A C T S
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O F
S C O T L A N D;

Begun at *Edinburgh*, the 23d Day of *May* 1765, and concluded the 3d Day of *June* said Year.

I.

The King's Commission to *John* Earl of *Glasgow* produced, and ordered to be recorded.

Edinburgh, 23d *May*, 1765.



THE General Assembly of this National Church being convened and constituted, there was produced to them, by the Right Honourable JOHN Earl of GLASGOW, the King's Commission, sealed with the Seal appointed by the Treaty of Union to be kept and used in *Scotland*, in Place of the Great Seal of *Scotland*, making and constituting him his Majesty's High Commissioner and Representative of this Assembly; which Commission was publickly read, with
all

all due Honour and Respect, and ordered to be recorded in the Books of Assembly. The Tenor whereof follows :

“ **G** EORGIUS, Dei Gratia, *Magnæ Britanniae, Fran-*
 “ *ciae, et Hiberniae* Rex, fidei defensor, omnibus probis
 “ hominibus, ad quos præsentes literæ nostræ pervenerint, salu-
 “ tem. Quandoquidem Nos considerantes, quod generalis ec-
 “ clesiae Scotiae conventus in vigesimum tertium diem *Maii*,
 “ proxime convenire ordinatus fuit, Nosque etiam abunde cu-
 “ pidi, quinetiam necessarium esse judicantes in commodum
 “ dictæ ecclesiae, ut idem generalis ecclesiae conventus, die
 “ statuto debite observetur, atque, rebus magni momenti nos
 “ alio vocantibus, dicto conventui personaliter interesse nequi-
 “ mus ; Nosque abunde satisfacti de fidelitate et sufficientia
 “ fidelissimi & dilectissimi nostri consanguinei *Joannis* comitis
 “ de *Glasgow*, quod ad summum munus supremi nostri com-
 “ missionarii dict. generali ecclesiae conventui rite exercendum
 “ et obeundum usquequaque est instructus : Noveritis igitur
 “ Nos nominasse, constituisse, et ordinasse, sicuti Nos tenore
 “ præsentium nominamus, constituimus, et ordinamus memo-
 “ ratum fidelissimum, et prædilectissimum nostrum consangui-
 “ neum *Joannem* comitem de *Glasgow*, supremum nostrum
 “ commissarium, dict. generali ecclesiae conventui Scotiae
 “ Dando, et concedendo illi plenissimam Nostram potestatem,
 “ commissionem, et warrantum, sacram Nostram personam et
 “ auctoritatem regalem repræsentandi, necnon præsentiam
 “ Nostram supplendi, et locum Nostrum in dicto subse-
 “ quenti generali conventu, tanquam commissario Nostro,
 “ ad hunc effectum specialiter constituto, tenendi, omniaque
 “ alia ad imperium et locum commissarii, pro generali
 “ ecclesiae conventu peragendi, tam plene, adeoque libere in
 “ quovis respectu, quam quilibet alius ejusdem summi mune-
 “ ris fecerat, seu quovis tempore præterito facere potuerat, vel
 “ ac Nos ipsi personaliter præsentes facere potuerimus ; Quæ-
 “ que omnia et singula, ab antedict. *Joanne* comite de *Glasgow*,
 “ in hac nostra commissione prosequenda, legitime fecerit, seu
 “ fieri ordinaverit, Nosque firmiter approbamus, et habituri
 “ sumus. Omnibus et singulis insuper antedict. ecclesiae et con-
 “ ventus pastoribus et presbyteris, cæterisque quibuscunque
 “ infra illam partem *Magnæ Britanniae, Scotiae* vocat. subdi-
 “ tis nostris quibuscunque, cujuscunque gradus, qualitatis,
 “ ut dictum *Joannem* comitem de *Glasgow*, tanquam supremum
 “ nostrum commissarium, quoad effectum supra mentio-
 “ natum, reveantur, agnoscant, et dicto ipsius audientes se
 “ præbeant, strikte mandamus et imperamus ; atque hanc No-
 “ stram commissionem, a dicto vigesimo tertio die *Maii*, proxi-
 “ me incipere, et deinceps hac subsequenti sessione dicti gene-
 “ ralis conventus, in vigore continuare declaramus, vel usque
 “ dum a nobis revocabitur, et exonerabitur. In cujus rei testi-
 “ monium, sigillum nostrum, per Unionis tractatum custodiend.

et

“ et in *Scotia*, vice et loco magni sigilli ejusd. utend. ordinat.
 “ præsentibus appendi mandavimus. Apud aulam nostram a-
 “ pud *St. James's*, vigesimo die mensis *Aprilis*, anno domini
 “ millesimo septingentesimo sexagesimo quinto, regnique
 “ Nostri anno quinto, per signaturam manu S. D. N. regis
 “ superscript.”

II.

The King's most gracious Letter to the
 General Assembly, presented to them
 by his Majesty's Commissioner.

Edinburgh, 23d May 1765.

Suprascribitur, GEORGE R.



I G H T Reverend and Well beloved, We greet you well. It is with the highest Satisfaction, that We embrace every Opportunity of renewing to you those Testimonies of Our Paternal Affection, which your Duty and Loyalty to Us and Our Government, and your steady Attention to the great Concerns of Religion and Virtue, deserve at Our Hands. It is from the Experience We have had of your Prudence, Candour, and Moderation, those constant Attendants of a truly Christian Spirit, that We gladly support the General Assemblies of the Church of *Scotland*, and this present Meeting in Particular, with Our Royal Countenance and Authority.

We need not recommend the avoiding of all Contention and unedifying Debates, to those who have no other Object in their View than the suppressing Licentiousness, Immorality, and Vice; and who are actuated by no other Zeal, than that which tends to the Advancement of true Religion, and, consequently, to the general Peace and Happiness of Society.

No Religion can be sincere, which does not require a conscientious Discharge of the Duties it prescribes: No Government can be steady which is not founded on Maxims of Public Liberty, under the Influence and Restriction of wholesome Laws. The Purity of the Christian Faith is distinguished by the first: The happiness of the British Constitution is derived from the second: It is by infusing into the Minds of the People, committed to your Care, these civil and religious Principles, so essential to their Happiness, both here and hereafter, that you will be effectually intitled to Our Favour.

B

We

We have again appointed Our Right Trusty and Right Well-beloved Cousin JOHN Earl of GLASGOW, to represent Our Royal Person in this Assembly; you, who have already experienced his Affection for you, will be sensible of Our Attention to you in this Choice. We need not assure you, that the Presbyterian Church of *Scotland*, as by Law established, will always meet with Our Support, in the full Enjoyment of their Rights and Privileges; and with such Conviction on your Part, We have no Doubt but that this Meeting will be concluded with the same Unanimity, Harmony, and Brotherly Affection, which have distinguished any former Assembly: And so We bid you heartily Farewell.

Given at Our Court at *St. James's* the 20th Day of April 1765, in the fifth Year of Our Reign.

By his Majesty's Command,

SANDWICH.

III.

The General Assembly's Answer to the King's most gracious Letter.

May it please your Majesty,



OUR Majesty's most gracious Letter to this General Assembly of the Church of *Scotland*, was received with the highest Respect and Gratitude. We are deeply sensible of the Honour done us by your Majesty's Approbation of the past Conduct of the Church of *Scotland*: Our Hearts are sensibly affected with the tender Concern your Majesty expresses for the Interests of Religion and Virtue, and the Encouragement you give us to pursue the Ends of our Office, and it is our steady Purpose to improve the Advantages of our happy Situation.

Your Majesty has been pleased to point out to us the great Objects of our Attention and Zeal, which ought to be ever in our View, and we should be unworthy of your Royal Favour, and of the Countenance of Almighty God, if we should allow ourselves to be turned aside from these, and should fail in exerting our Endeavours for the Advancement of true Religion,

gion, for the restraint of every Species of Vice and Immorality, and of that Licentiousness of Spirit which is so much to be guarded against in a Tide of National Prosperity, and under so mild and gentle a Government.

As we are entrusted with the Office of explaining and enforcing a Religion, the sole Tendency of which is to prepare Mankind for inconceivable Happiness in another Life, by teaching them to pursue their Duty and true Interest in this present State; and, as we act under the Protection of a Prince devoted to the Worship and Obedience of God, and under a Constitution of Government formed for maintaining the Rights and Liberties of Mankind, we shall be utterly inexcusable if we do not, to our utmost ability, pursue these great and noble Ends with Stedfastness and Ardour: Placing therefore our humble Confidence in Him from whom every good and perfect Gift doth come, we are determined to cultivate in our own Hearts, and in the Hearts of those committed to our Care, such Principles of Religion and public Liberty, as tend to produce the Peace of Society, and the Happiness of Mankind in this Life and in the Life to come; in the prosecution of which Purposes, we rest assured, under your Majesty's Protection, of the full Enjoyment of the Rights and Privileges of the Church of *Scotland*.

With the warmest Gratitude of Heart, we offer up our Prayers to God for your Majesty's happy Recovery from your late Indisposition, and at the same Time permit us, Great Sir, to make our most thankful Acknowledgments to your Sacred Majesty, for the late Instance you have been pleased to give, with such Magnanimity of Spirit, of your Paternal Affection, in proposing a Method for securing the future Peace and Happiness of these Nations, in the View of an Event which we fervently pray to God we may never see.

We most gratefully acknowledge your Majesty's Royal Donation for promoting Christian Knowledge in the Highlands and Islands of *Scotland*, as a renewed Proof of your Majesty's Zeal for the best Interests of your Subjects, and we shall be careful to apply it in such a Manner, as may most effectually contribute to the Accomplishment of your Majesty's pious and charitable Design.

The approved Zeal and Fidelity of the Earl of *Glasgow* in your Majesty's Service, our Experience of his Abilities for the Discharge of so high a Trust, his exemplary Regard for Religion, his warm Affection to this Church, and his many amiable Qualities and Christian Virtues, make your Majesty's Choice of him to represent your Royal Person in this Assembly, most acceptable to this whole Church.

That the King of Heaven and Earth may long preserve your Majesty the Guardian of Liberty, and the Patron of Piety

ty and Virtue to your People; that he may render your Administration prosperous; that he may pour down his best Blessings on your Royal Consort, our most gracious Queen; that God may bless his Royal Highness the Prince of *Wales*, and all your Royal Family; that one of your Royal Progeny may, to latest Ages, reign over a free and loyal People; that, after a long and happy Life on Earth, you may enjoy the glorious Crown of Immortality, are, and ever shall be, the earnest Prayers of,

May it please your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most faithful, most obedient, and most loyal Subjects,

The Ministers and Elders met in this National Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in our name, in our Presence, and at our Appointment, by

*Edin. 25th May
1765.*

JAMES OSWALD, Moderator.

IV.

Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders for Reformation of the *Highlands* and *Islands*, and for managing his Majesty's Royal Bounty for that End.

Edinburgh, 3d June 1765. Sess. 11th.



THE General Assembly do hereby nominate and appoint Mr *James Oswald* Minister at *Metbven*, Moderator, Dr *William Robertson* Principal, Dr *Robert Hamilton* Professor of Divinity, Dr *Hugh Blair* Professor of Rhetorick in the University of *Edinburgh*, Dr *Robert Wallace*, Dr *George Wishart*, Dr *Patrick Cumming*, Dr *George Kay*, Mr *John Glen*, Mr *Robert Walker*, Dr *Alexander Webster*, Mr *David Plenderleith*, Dr *Daniel M'Queen*, Mr *John Erskine*, Mr *Alexander Stewart*, Dr *John Drysdale*, Mr *Hary Lundie*, Dr *John Jardine*, Dr *Robert Dick*,
Ministers;

Ministers, Members of the Presbytery of Edinburgh; Mr *William Porteous* at *Whitburn*, Mr *John Johnston* at *Biggar*, Mr *John Goldie* at *Pennycok*, Mr *Alexander Duncan* at *Smalholm*, Mr *Patrick Bannerman* at *Salton*, Mr *John Lundie* at *Old Hamstocks*, Mr *David Johnston* at *Langton*, Mr *James Allan* at *Eymouth*, Mr *John Nimmo* at *Johnston*, Mr *James Laurie* at *Hawick*, Mr *James Brown* at *Melrose*, Mr *William Thom* at *Glasgow*, Principal *Leechman* at *Glasgow*, Mr *John M^cLea* at *Lochgillhead*, Mr *Robert Thomson* at *Killearn*, Mr *John Woodrow* at *Tarbolton*, Mr *James Hunter* at *Auchtergaven*, Mr *Hary Inglis* at *Forteviot*, Mr *David Dow* at *Dron*, Mr *Robert Drummond* at *Auchterarder*, Mr *Robert Liston* at *Aberdour*, Mr *George Willis* at *Lesly*, Mr *Robert Preston* at *Cupar*, Dr *John Chalmers* at *Kilconquhar*, Mr *Charles Nisbet* at *Montrose*, Mr *William Thomson* at *Marykirk*, Mr *John Maxwell* at *New Machar*, Mr *Patrick Duff* at *Old Machar*, Dr *Alexander Gerard* at *Aberdeen*, Professor *Lumslean* at *Aberdeen*, Mr *Algernoon Gordon* at *Tullenestle*, Mr *Roger Moodie* at *Gartlie*, Mr *David Rentoul* at *Elgin*, Mr *John Dunbar* at *Knockando*, Mr *James Hay* at *Dallas*, Mr *Colin M^cFarquhar* at *Applecross*, Mr *George Munro* at *Farr*, Mr *John Thomson* at *Durness*, Mr *James Leslie* at *Roulay*, Mr *James Stewart* at *Killin*, Mr *James Stewart* at *Callander*, Mr *James Nicolson* at *Durness*, Mr *Joseph Munro* at *Eddertown*, Mr *George Balfour* at *Tarbat*, Dr *John Walker* at *Moffat*, Mr *Duncan M^cFarlane* at *Drymen*, Ministers, Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Lord Napier, Solicitor Montgomery, the Lord President Lord Coalston, Mr *John Fordyce* Merchant in Edinburgh, Henry Dundas Advocate, Lord Alenmoor, Mr *Albert Munro* Writer, Mr *Andrew Croshie* Advocate, the Lord Advocate, Baron Muir, Mr *Alexander Wight* Advocate, Sir *James Colquhoun*, Mr *John Swinton* Advocate, Lord Barjarg, the Procurator, Mr *Cosmo Gordon* Advocate, Mr *Isaac Grant* Writer, Professor *James Robertson*, Mr *George Wallace* Advocate, Sir *Alexander Dick*, Bailie *Gilbert Lawrie*, Mr *John Lindsay* Conveener, Mr *Gideon Shaw*, Lord Stonefield, Mr *Alexander Gray* Writer, Mr *Alexander M^cMillan*, Mr *William M^cDonald* Writer, Provost Ingram, Glasgow, Mr *Alexander Campbell* Advocate, Mr *John Chalmers* Writer, Mr *Alexander M^cAulay*, Mr *Ross* of *Innerbaslie*, Mr *Allan Whitefoord*, Ruling Elders, to be a Committee of this Assembly, for Reformation of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, for promoting the Knowledge of true Religion, suppressing Popery and Prophaneness, and for managing the Royal Bounty given for these Ends, according to, and in Terms of his Majesty's Grant to this Assembly. In Prosecution of which Purposes, the Committee are to appoint Preachers and Catechists to go to such Places as they shall find, upon due Information, to be most proper, according to his Majesty's Design expressed in his Warrant; and, in so doing, that they have particular Regard to such Parishes in *South-Uist*, *Small-Isles*, *Glenco*, *Harris*, the Countries of *Moidart*, *Glengairie*, and *Lochaber*, and the other

other Parishes of the Synods of *Glenelg* and *Argyle*, which the Committee shall find, by Reason of their vast Extent, the Prevalency of Popery and Ignorance, and other unhappy Circumstances, to be in the greatest Distress: And they shall take Care, that the Persons they employ be certified, and found, upon due Trial, to be properly qualified for these respective Offices, of good Abilities for the same, of a pious Life and Conversation, prudent, of undoubted Loyalty to his Majesty, and of competent Skill in the Principles of Divinity, and particularly in Popish Controversies: Such Preachers and Catechists being hereby appointed to be subject to, and under the Inspection of, the Presbyteries of the Bounds to which they are sent, who are to take Care that the Orders of the Committee be duly observed by them: And the Preachers are also appointed to catechise; and both they and the Catechists to instruct the People from House to House, and to visit the Sick: And, in all their Labours among the People, to be careful to teach them the Principles and Duties of the true Christian Protestant Religion, and the Obligations they are under to Duty and Loyalty to our Sovereign King *George*, and Obedience to the Laws: And the Committee are impowered to give them such Instructions, as to their Work and Behaviour, as they shall judge meet; which Instructions the Preachers and Catechists are hereby ordered to obey. The General Assembly do further appoint the said Committee to have a particular Regard, in their Proceedings, to the Regulations agreed upon by the Committee of the Assembly for managing the Royal Bounty, on the 30th Day of *September* 1730, approved by subsequent Assemblies; and to take Care that Presbyteries, and others concerned, observe the same, which they are hereby ordered to do: Particularly the Assembly ordains the several Presbyteries to insert in their Registers, the Committee's Appointments of the Designations, Salaries, and Stations of the several Missionaries and to have an exact Regard thereto, in all the Letters they shall write about the said Missionaries, and in giving of Certificates to them; and to direct all their Letters concerning Missionaries in their Bounds, only to the Moderator of the Committee; which Letters shall be signed, at the Appointment of the Presbytery, by the Moderator or Clerk thereof: And the Assembly does discharge any Payments to be made of the Salaries of the Missionaries, except upon Receipts from the Missionaries themselves, and upon Certificates from the Presbyteries, bearing that they have served for the Time mentioned, in the Receipts. The General Assembly do also empower the said Committee to apply, for the Purposes above-mentioned what may remain of the last Year's Royal Bounty not disposed of, by Reason of any of the Missionaries not fulfilling the Appointments laid upon them: And they are to keep a Register of their Proceedings, and likewise distinct Books of Accompts, how the foresaid Money is bestowed, which shall be

patent

patent to any concerned, who please to inspect the same. Of the Persons above named as Members of this Committee, five are declared to be a Quorum, whereof three are to be Ministers. But it is hereby appointed, that at the quarterly Meeting of the Committee, in which the Scheme or Establishment of Missionaries for the ensuing Year is to be approved and determined, not less than fourteen shall be the Quorum, whereof nine shall be Ministers, and the said Committee are appointed to have their Meetings at *Edinburgh*, in the Hall of the Society in *Scotland* for propagating Christian Knowledge, the last *Thursday* of every Month, at four of the Clock Afternoon, and also the first lawful Day after the Adjournment of the four stated Diets of the Commission of the General Assembly, at ten of the Clock in the Forenoon, except that Day shall fall to be *Saturday*, and then the Meeting shall be upon *Monday* next thereafter, at the said Hour; with Power to the said Committee to adjourn themselves to such Times and Places, as they shall find most needful and convenient: And they are to keep a Correspondence with the Commission of the General Assembly, and the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, and their Committee of Directors, and to take their Advice and Assistance; and also to correspond with the Synods and Presbyteries concerned. They are likewise instructed and impowered, as they shall see Cause, to apply to the Government, or any Magistrate, for Assistance and Support in carrying on the Design of the Commission now given to them. And the General Assembly do by these Presents nominate and appoint Mr *David Dalrymple* Advocate, Procurator for the Church, to be Receiver of the foresaid Royal Bounty, and to pay out the same as he shall be directed and ordered by the said Committee, and according to their Rules. And the said Committee are appointed to examine the Accompts of the Distribution of the Royal Bounty, and lay the same before the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury, or the Barons of his Majesty's Court of Exchequer, and to report their Diligence to the General Assembly, to whom they are to be accountable. And it is agreed, that no Person once employed and insert in the Scheme, shall be struck out thereof for that year, but by the *Quorum* of at least fourteen, whereof nine to be Ministers; and in Case any Complaint shall be made against any of them on the Scheme, it shall not be determined the first ordinary Meeting that the same is offered, but it shall ly on the Table till another Meeting; and, in the mean Time, the Person complained of, and the Presbytery of the Bounds wherein he officiates, shall be acquainted of such Complaint, and these concerned be required to send to the said Committee a just Account of the Matter, against their next Meeting. And it is further appointed, that after the yearly Scheme of Missionaries on the Royal Bounty is settled in Manner above directed, and Notice thereof given by Letters to the Presbyteries concerned, such Presbyteries shall send up to the said

said Committee their Answers to these Letters, at farthest with their Commissioners to the General Assembly, if the same be not done sooner; and that the Committee, at their first Meeting after the General Assembly, shall endeavour to compleat the next Year's Scheme themselves; and if they cannot compleat it, that they shall name a Sub-committee of their Number for that Purpose, who are to lay their Draught thereof before a subsequent Meeting, which are appointed to meet as soon after the Rising of the Assembly as possible: And that the said Committee, in making up the Scheme of Missionaries, &c. do not exceed the Sum in the Grant.

XX

V.

Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for discussing Affairs referred to them.

Edinburgh, 3d June, 1765.



THE General Assembly considering, that there are divers Affairs which they cannot overtake, do hereby nominate, commissionate, and appoint, the Reverend Master James Oswald Minister of the Gospel at *Methven*, their Moderator; And from the Presbytery of *Edinburgh*, Dr Robert Wallace, Dr George Withart, Dr George Kay, Dr William Robertson Principal of the University of *Edinburgh*, Mr Alexander Stewart at *West-Church*, Mr James Robertson at *Ratho*, Ministers; and Sir Alexander Dick, Bailie Gilbert Laurie, and Mr John Fordyce, Ruling Elders: From the City of *Edinburgh*, the Lord Provost of *Edinburgh*, and Mr John Lindsay Conveener: From the University of *Edinburgh*, Professor Hamilton: From the Presbytery of *Linlithgow*, Mr Adam Wadderston at *Bathgate*, Mr James Watson at *Mid-Calder*, Mr William Porteous at *Whitburn*, Mr William Gib at *Uphall*, Ministers; Lord Napier and Bailie Robert Clerk, Ruling Elders: From the Burgh of *Linlithgow*, Provost Henry Gillis: From the Presbytery of *Biggar*, Mr John Johnston at *Biggar*, Mr John Noble at *Liberton*, Ministers; and Bailie Robert Forrester, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Peebles*, Mr Thomas Gibson at *Kirkurd*, and William Anderson at *Manner*, Ministers; and Solicitor Montgomery, Ruling Elder: From

From the Burgh of *Peebles*, Mr Alexander Murray Advocate: From the Presbytery of *Dalkeith*, Mr John Goldie at *Pennycook*, Mr William Gloag at *Cockpen*, Mr James Tayler at *Glen-cross*, Ministers; and the Lord President, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Haddington*, Mr Andrew Dickson at *Aberlady*, Mr Patrick Bannerman at *Salton*, Mr Robert Dundas at *Humbie*, Ministers; and Lord Coalston, Ruling Elder: From the Burgh of *Haddington*, Mr James Wilkie of *Gilkerston*: From the Burgh of *North-Berwick*, Sir George Suttie: From the Presbytery of *Dunbar*, Mr William Orr at *Spott*, Mr John Lundie at *Old Hamstocks*, Ministers; and George Hepburn of *Smeiton* Esq; Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Dunse*, Mr David Johnston at *Langton*; Mr Ralph Drummond at *Crainsbaws*, Ministers; and Robert Hepburn of *Clerkington* Esq; Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Churnside*, Mr James Allan at *Eymouth*, Mr William Hedpath at *Edrom*, Ministers; and Sir John Stewart of *Allanbank*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Kelfo*, Mr Cornelius Lundie at *Kelfo*, Mr Thomas M'Dougal at *Mackerston*, Ministers; and Mr Henry Dundas Advocate, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Fedburgh*, Mr James Laurie at *Hawick*, Mr James Erskine at *Kirkcubright*, Mr John Douglas at *Fedburgh*, Ministers; and Archibald Dickson of *Huntlaw*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Earlston*, Mr Alexander Duncan at *Smalkholm*, Mr Robert Dawson at *Stow*, Ministers; and Robert Kennedy of *Auchterfardel* Esq; Ruling Elder: From the Burgh of *Lauder*, the Earl of *Lauderdale*: From the Presbytery of *Selkirk*, Mr James Brown at *Melrose*, Mr Robert Gullen at *Leffudden*, Ministers; and Lord Alemoor, Ruling Elder: From the Burgh of *Selkirk*, Mr Gideon Shaw: From the Presbytery of *Annan*, Mr James Currie at *Middleby*, Mr John Craig at *Kirkpatrick-Fleeming*, Ministers; and Mr Alexander Orr Writer, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Langholm*, Mr John Dickie at *Langholm*, Mr Andrew Walker at *Cannaby*, Ministers; and Mr John Craigie Advocate, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Lochmaben*, Mr John Nimmo at *Johnston*, Mr William Scot at *Kirkpatrick-Juxta*, Mr William Bryden at *Dalton*, Ministers; and Mr James Kirkpatrick Advocate, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Penpont*, Mr John Johnston at *Durisdere*, Mr Robert Aitken at *Morton*, Ministers; and Mr John Welsh in *Morton-Mains*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Dumfries*, Mr Andrew Beveridge at *Carlawerock*, Mr John Marshall at *Tinwall*, Mr James MacMillan at *Torthorwell*, Ministers; and Mr Andrew Crosbie Advocate, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Kirkcudbright*, Mr William Boyd at *Carssphairn*, Mr William Crombie at *Kirkcudbright*, Mr John Gilletpie at *Kells*, Ministers; and Mr David Halliday in *Kirkcudbright*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Wigton*, Mr Robert Hunter at *Kirk Owen*, Mr Samuel Brown at *Kirkmabrick*, Ministers; and Mr Hathorn of *Over-Aris*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Stranrawer*, Mr James Mochrie

at *Colmonell*, Mr John Coulter at *Kirkmaiden*, Ministers; and Dr Robert Findlay, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Air*, Mr Andrew Mitchell at *Muirkirk*, Mr Mathew Biggar at *Kirk-Oswald*, Mr Robert Wait at *Glasston*, Mr John Cunningham at *Monktoun*, Mr James Young at *New Cumnock*, Ministers: the Lord Advocate and Allan Whiteford Esq; Ruling Elders: From the Burgh of *Air*, Mr John Chalmers Writer to the Signet: From the Presbytery of *Irvine*, Mr Malcolm Brown at *Kilbirnie*, Mr Charles Bannatyne at *Irvine*, Mr Gilbert Lang at *Largs* Ministers; and the Honourable Patrick Boyle, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Paisley*, Mr John Fleming at *Kirk-Malcolm*, Mr James Lundie at *Erskine*, Mr John Cooper at *Lochwinnoch*, Mr James Simpson at *Eastwood*, Ministers; and Baron Muir, and Mr Ilay Campbell Ruling Elders: From the Burgh of *Renfrew*, Bailie James Park: From the Presbytery of *Hamilton*, Mr James Miller at *Hamilton*, Mr John Gray at *Cambusnethan*, Mr John Risk at *Dalserf*, Ministers; and Mr Robert Sinclair Advocate, Ruling Elders: From the Presbytery of *Lanerk*, Mr John Christie at *Carnwath*, Mr James Gray at *Lanerk*, Mr William Miller at *Crawford-John*, Ministers; and Mr Alexander Wight Advocate, Ruling Elder: From the Burgh of *Lanerk*, James Dewar of *Vogrie* Esq; From the Presbytery of *Glasgow*, Mr Robert Findlay at *Glasgow*, Mr George Bannatyne, Mr William Thom, Ministers; and Provost Ingram, Ruling Elder: From the University of *Glasgow*, Principal Leechman: From the City of *Glasgow*, Provost John Bowman: From the Presbytery of *Dunbarton*, Mr Andrew Gray at *New-Kilpatrick*, Mr Archbald Smith at *Fintrie*, Mr John Colquhoun at *Baldernoch*, Ministers; and Sir James Colquhoun of *Lufs*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Dennoon*, Mr John M'Lea at *Lochgoelhead*, Mr John Melvil at *Dennoon*, Ministers; and Mr William Sands Bookseller in *Edinburgh*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Kintyre*, Mr Robert Thomson at *Killeen*, Mr John Woodrow at *Rildalton*, and Mr Alexander M'Millan, Ministers; From the Presbytery of *Lorn*, Mr Ludovick Grant at *Ardchattan*, Mr Joseph MacIntyre at *Clachandyfert*, Ministers; and Lord Stonefield, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Dunkeld*, Mr James Hunter at *Auchtergaven*, Mr Patrick Simpson at *Clunie*, Mr James Campbell at *Kenmuir*, Mr James Stewart at *Dull*, Ministers; and the Earl of *Breadalbane* and Mr Robertson of *Tulliebelton*, Ruling Elders: From the Presbytery of *Perth*, Mr Henry Inglis at *Forteviot*, Mr David Dow at *Dron*, Mr David Moncreiff at *Regorton*, Mr Archibald Stevenson at *St Madoes*, Ministers; and John Belches of *Innermay* Esq; and Mr John Swinton jun. Advocate, Ruling Elders: From the Presbytery of *Stirling*, Mr John Haly at *Clackmannan*, Mr Robert Finlay at *Dollar*, Ministers; and Lord Barjarg, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Auchterarder*, Mr Robert Drummond at *Auchterarder*, Mr Archibald Renny at *Muckart*, Mr John Storer at *Fossoway*, Ministers;

Ministers; and Bailie James Gentle, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Dumblane*, Mr John Ferguson at *Port*, Mr James Stewart at *Callander*, Ministers; and Captain John Campbell of *Kilpunt*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Dunfermline*, Mr Thomas Fernie at *Dunfermline*, Mr Robert Liston at *Aberdour*, Mr Robert Stark at *Kinross*, Ministers; and Sir George Preston of *Valleyfield*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Kirkcaldy*, Mr Niel Bethune at *Kennoway*, Mr George Willis at *Lefly*, Mr David Swan at *Scoonie*, Ministers; and Mr Andrew Balfour Advocate, Ruling Elder: From the Burgh of *Kirkcaldy*, Mr Robert Chalmers: From the Burgh of *Dysart*, Mr John-Stevenson Rogers: From the Presbytery of *Cupar*, Mr Robert Preston at *Cupar*, Mr Hugh Glas at *Kettle*, Mr Robert Wingate at *Abdie*, Mr John Adamson at *Kilmeny*, Ministers; the Earl of *Leven*, and Andrew Barclay of *Pitaap* Esq; Ruling Elders: From the Presbytery of *St Andrews*, Mr Alexander Walker at *Kemback*, Dr John Chalmers at *Kilconquhar*, Mr John Tod at *Deninno*, Mr Robert Ferrier at *Largo*, Ministers; and James Durham of *Largo* Esq; and Mr John MacNaughton, Ruling Elders: From the Burgh of *Arstruther-Easter* Mr William Alexander Merchant in *Edinburgh*: From the Presbytery of *Forfar*, Dr John Young at *Inverarity*, Mr William Kay at *Roscobie*, Ministers; and Mr George Dempster Advocate, Ruling Elder: From the Burgh of *Forfar*, Mr John Adam: From the Presbytery of *Dundee*, Mr James Henderson at *Monyfeth*, Dr James Blenshall at *Dundee*, Mr Andrew Hally at *Lundie*, Ministers; and Mr James Fairweather Merchant in *Dundee*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Aberbrothock*, Mr John Aitken at *St Vigians*, Mr Alexander Chaplin at *Kinnell*, Ministers: and Baron Maule, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Brechin*, Mr James Lauder at *Dun*, Mr James Paton at *Craig*, Mr Charles Nisbet at *Montrose*, Ministers; and the Earl of *Northesk*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Fordon*, Mr William Thomson at *Marykirk*, Mr Robert Young at *Benholm*, Mr John Hutcheon at *Fetteresso*, Ministers; and Robert Scot of *Dunninald*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Aberdeen*, Professor Lumisdean, Mr John Maxwell at *Newmachir*, Mr Patrick Duff at *Old-Machir*, Dr Alexander Gerard Ministers: and Provost Shand and John Duncan of *Mostown* Esqr. Ruling Elders: From the Presbytery of *Alford*, Mr Robert Lumisdean at *Auchindore*, Mr Algernoon Gordon at *Tullienessle*, Mr Robert Findlay at *Clatt*, Ministers; and Mr John Duncan Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Garioch*, Mr Alexander Stewart at *Leslie*, Mr Alexander Gordon at *Kintore*, Mr George Ogilvie at *Premnay*, Ministers; and the Procurator, Ruling Elder: From the Burgh of *Inverury*, Mr John Clark Merchant: From the Presbytery of *Deer*, Mr John Smith at *Strichen*, Mr William Cumming at *Tyrie*, Mr George Muir at *Peterhead*, Ministers; and John Gordon of *Buthlaw* Esqr. Advocate, Ruling Elder: From the Burgh of *Cullen*, the Honourable

able Charles Hope-Vere Esq; From the Presbytery of *Strath-bogie*, Mr John Cooper at *Glass*, Mr Roger Moodie at *Gartly*, Ministers; and Mr Cosmo Gordon Advocate, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of Aberlour, Mr John Grant at *Dundurcas*, Mr John Dunbar at *Knockando*, Ministers; and Mr Isaac Grant Writer, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Aber-nethy*, Mr William Blair at *Kinguiffie*, Mr George Grant at *Kirk-michael*, Ministers: From the Presbytery of *Elgin*, Mr James Spens at *Urquhart*, Mr David Rentoul at *Elgin*, Ministers; and Bailie Robert Grant, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Forres*, Mr James Munro at *Kinloss*, Mr James Hay at *Dallas*, Ministers; and Bailie James Ross of *Nairn*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Inverness*, Mr John Morrison at *Putty*, Mr Malcolm Nicolson at *Kiltarlity*, Ministers; and Mr Alexander Campbell Advocate, Ruling Elder: from the Presbytery of *Channonry*, Mr Thomas Simpson at *Avoch*, Mr David Denoon at *Killernan*, Ministers, and Professor James Robertson, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Tain*, Mr Joseph Munro at *Eddertoun*, Mr George Balfour at *Tarbot*, Ministers; and David Ross of *Innerbasley* Esq; Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Dingwall*, Mr Andrew Robertson at *Kiltearn*, Mr Colin M'Kenzie at *Fodderty*, Ministers; and Mr Albert Munro of *Coul*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Aber-tarph*, Mr William Grant at *Kilmaniwaig*, Mr Andrew Gallie at *Laggan*, Ministers; and Mr Colquhoun Grant Writer to the Signet, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Skye*, Mr Donald M'Queen at *Kilmuir*, Mr James Nicolson at *Durness*, Ministers; and Mr Alexander M'Aulay, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Gairloch*, Mr John Downie at *Gairloch*, Mr Colin M'Farquhar at *Applecross*, Ministers; and Mr William M'Donald Writer, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Dornock*, Mr Hugh Ross at *Greich*, Mr John Ross at *Kildonan*, Ministers; and Mr Gray of *Over-Skibo*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Tong*, Mr George Munro at *Farr*, Mr John Thomson at *Durness*, Ministers; and the Honourable George M'Kay of *Skibo*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Caithness*, Mr James Brodie at *Canisby*, Mr George Trail at *Dunnet*, Ministers; and Mr Sinclair of *Ulbster*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Kirkwall*, Mr John Yule at *Kirkwall*, Mr James Allison at *Holm*, Ministers; and James Stewart-Fleeming Esq; Ruling Elder: From the Burgh of *Kirkwall*, Mr Patrick Graham of *Grahamshall*: From the Presbytery of *Cairston*, Mr Thomas Hepburn at *Birsay*, Mr William Nisbet at *Forth*, Ministers; and Mr George Wallace Advocate, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *North-Isles*, Mr James Lesly at *Rousay*, Mr Robert Tytler at *Stronsay*, Ministers; and Professor Adam Ferguson, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Zetland*, Mr John Milne at *Dunrofsness*, Mr George Reid at *Nesling*: To be Commissioners of this General Assembly, to the

the Effect after-mentioned ; with Power to the said Commissioners, or their Quorum, which is hereby declared to be any Thirty-one of the said Commissioners, whereof Twenty-one are always to be Ministers, to meet and convene within the Assembly-house at *Edinburgh*, the first Day after the Dissolution of this Assembly, at Ten of the Clock in the Forenoon ; and thereafter, the second *Wednesday* of *August*, third *Wednesday* of *November*, and the first *Wednesday* of *March* next to come, and oftner, when and where they shall think fit and convenient, with Power to the said Commissioners to chuse their own Moderator : And likewise, the General Assembly fully impowers their said Commissioners, or their Quorum above mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see Cause, in every Matter referred, or that shall be referred to them, by any Act or Order of this Assembly, and to do every Thing contained in, and conform to the Instructions given, or to be given by this Assembly ; and to advert to the Interest of the Church on every Occasion, that the Church, and present Establishment thereof, do not suffer or sustain any Prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable : Providing always, that this general Clause be not extended to particular Affairs, or Processes before Synods or Presbyteries, that are not of universal Concern to, or Influence upon, the whole Church. And it is hereby appointed, that no private Processes be determined, except at the four stated Diets ; and what shall be determined at one Diet of the Commission, with Relation to private Causes, shall be unalterable by any other Diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in Force 'till disproven by the General Assembly. And the Assembly renews the Instructions given by the General Assembly in the Year One thousand seven-hundred and seventeen, to their Commission, and appoints the same to stand in full Force, as Instructions to the Commissioners before-named, and to be observed by them in all Points, as if the same were specially here insert ; and that they inquire into the publishing and spreading of Books and Pamphlets, tending towards the promoting of Opinions of whatever Kind, inconsistent with our *Confession of Faith* ; and that the Recommenders of such Books or Pamphlets, or the Errors therein contained, whether by Word, Writ, or Print, be called before the said Commission to answer for the same. And further, the said Commission is hereby empowered to receive any References and Appeals that shall be made to them from Synods, in Matters of Doctrine, and ripen such Affairs for the next General Assembly ; and to contribute what they can to the suppressing of Vice and Immorality, and give all needful Advice and Assistance to Synods and Presbyteries, upon Application to them for that End : Likewise to take Care that the Impressions of the *Holy Scriptures*, the *Confession of Faith*, and *Catechisms*, and such Books as are authorised by this Church, relating to the Doctrine, Worship, Discipline,

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and

and Government thereof, be correct; and give Directions about printing the same. And the Commissioners are appointed and impowered to keep a Correspondence with the Committee for Reformation of the *Highlands and Islands*, for suppressing Popery and Superstition, and for promoting the Knowledge of true Religion, and carrying on a Reformation in these Parts, and give Assistance and Concurrence therein; and, if Need be, to apply to the Government for a proper Remedy and speedy Redress. And the said Commissioners are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other Matters, than what are committed and referred to them, as above-mentioned: And, in all their Actings, they are to proceed according to the Acts and Constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the Prejudice of the same; declaring, that in, and for all their Actings, they shall be accountable to, and censurable by the next General Assembly, as they shall see Cause. And the General Assembly appoints the said Commissioners particularly to observe the Acts of the General Assemblies 1712, and 1719, respecting the Application of the public Money, which two Acts are printed among the Acts of Assembly 1761. And this Commission is to continue and endure until another Commission be appointed; and Members are required to attend the Diets of the said Commission, and Absents therefrom are ordered to be noticed, according to the 17th Act of the General Assembly held in the Year One thousand seven hundred and six. And for the better securing of a Quorum, and Attendance of Members on the Commission, the General Assembly prohibits the Presbytery of *Edinburgh*, or any other Presbytery within twelve Miles thereof, to meet on any of the Days or Weeks appointed for the Meetings of this Commission; and such of the Members of these Presbyteries as are on the Commission, are required, all of them, to give Attendance on the Diets thereof; and the Presbyteries at a greater Distance, who have four or more Members on the Commission, are to take Care, that at least two of them attend each Diet of the same: And the General Assembly appoint their Commission, at their first Meeting, to discuss as many of the Causes and Questions, relative to the Settlement of vacant Churches, which are or shall be referred to them by the Assembly, as they can overtake. And it is further provided, that when any Presbytery, or Synod of this Church, shall decline to comply with the Sentences of the Commission, or to give the same a full Execution, in that Case the Commission is hereby prohibited to execute the same, by appointing any such correspondent Meetings, as has been sometimes the Practice; but shall allow the same to ly over to the ensuing Assembly, to which such Presbyteries or Synods shall be answerable for such their Conduct, and are hereby appointed to send up with their Commissioners their Reasons for the same. And the Assembly doth further impower and direct the said Commission,

sion, to make due Application to the King and Parliament, for Redress of the Grievance of Patronage, in case a favourable Opportunity for so doing shall occur during the Subsistence of this Commission. And the General Assembly do enjoin their Commission, that in passing their Sentences, and in ordering the Execution of the same, they strictly observe the 12th Act of the Assembly 1736.

VI.

The General Assembly's Address to the King, anent the new Erections in the Highlands.

May it please your Majesty,



WE your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Ministers and Elders met in the National Assembly of the Church of *Scotland*, humbly beg Leave to approach your Throne, in behalf of our fellow Subjects residing in the more remote Corners of this Part of the United Kingdoms. With the deepest Concern, we behold many of them labouring under gross Ignorance, or deluded by dangerous Errors, which render them insensible to those Blessings religious and civil, which the Inhabitants of the other Parts of your Majesty's extensive Dominions enjoy under your auspicious Reign.

To communicate to the Inhabitants of the *Highlands* and *Islands* a more perfect Knowledge of true Religion, and to inspire them with just Sentiments concerning our happy Constitution, we have always considered as Objects worthy of our most serious Attention; and we are confident that every Measure, calculated for attaining such important Ends, will not only merit your Majesty's Approbation, but receive such Countenance from your Royal Authority, as may be necessary towards carrying it into Execution. Animated by these Hopes, the General Assembly of this Church, held in the Year 1761, thought it their Duty to lay before your Majesty the Report of Commissioners, who had been appointed by the preceding General Assembly to visit the *Highlands* and *Islands*, and to inquire into the State of Religion in those Parts; and, at the same Time, they humbly suggested to your Majesty, that if you should be pleased to continue the Royal Donation, which you have annually made to this Church for Reformation of the
Highlands

Highlands and Islands, such Alteration might be made in the Terms of the Grant, as to permit a Part of it to be applied towards the Erection of new Parishes, with fixed Pastors, in different Parts of those Countries, as the most effectual Method for instructing and reforming the People.

The gracious Reception which your Majesty was pleased to give to that Application, hath encouraged us to lay before you the Report of a Reverend Minister, who, in Obedience to the Appointment of last General Assembly, visited several Parts of the *Highlands and Islands*, the State of which the former Commissioners had no Access to inspect. Although we are fully satisfied that the labours of the Missionaries and Catechists, which your Majesty's Royal Bounty enables us to employ in the *Highlands and Islands*, are attended with good Effects; we are persuaded that the erecting of new Parishes in different Parts of those Countries would be productive of more certain and permanent Advantages. But, as the Sum granted annually to the Church, does not enable us to carry on both these Plans in that vigorous manner with which we would wish to prosecute your Majesty's pious Intentions, and promote the Happiness of our fellow Subjects; We, with all Humility, suggest to your Royal Wisdom, that some Part of the Rents and Produce of those Estates, which, by a Statute made in the 25th Year of his late Majesty, were annexed unalienably to the Crown, may be applied towards erecting Parishes in those Places of the *Highlands and Islands* where to your Majesty they shall appear to be most wanted. By that Statute the Rents and Produce of these Estates are declared to be applicable to the Purposes mentioned in it, or "in such manner as his Majesty, his Heirs, or Successors should, from Time to Time, by Warrants under his or their Sign Manual, be pleased to direct, to the Purposes of civilizing the Inhabitants of said Estates, and other Parts of the *Highlands and Islands* of Scotland, the promoting amongst them the Protestant Religion, good Government, Industry, Manufactures, and the Principles of Duty and Loyalty to his Majesty, his Heirs and Successors, and to no other Use or Purpose whatsoever."

From our certain Knowledge of the State of the *Highlands and Islands*, we beg leave to assure your Majesty, that the Application of some Part of the Rents and Produce of these Estates, in the manner we have humbly proposed, will greatly conduce to promote the salutary Purposes which the Legislature had in View, and we have such Confidence in your Majesty's paternal Tenderneſs towards all your People, that we are persuaded it will appear to you an Object highly worthy of your Royal Consideration.

That it may please Almighty God long to continue the Blessing of your Majesty's Reign, and that the Principles of true Religion and Virtue, with a firm Attachment to our invaluable Constitution, may, under your gracious Government, be diffused

diffused into every Part of your extensive Dominions, is the earnest Prayer of

May it please your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most faithful, most obedient, and most loyal Subjects,

The Ministers and Elders met in this National Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in our Name, in our Presence, and at our Appointment, by

*Edin. 26th May
1765.*

JAMES OSWALD, Moderator.

VII.

Act appointing the Diet of the next General Assembly.

Edinburgh, 3d June 1765. Sess. ult.



HE next General Assembly of this National Church is appointed to be held in this Place, on *Thursday* the 22d of *May*, in the Year One Thousand seven hundred and sixty-six.

Collected and extracted from the Records of the General Assembly, by

GEORGE WISHART, *Cls. Ecc. Scot.*

Overture anent Transmission of all the former Overtures :



PON Report from the Committee for Overtures, transmitted by the last and preceding Assemblies, the General Assembly agreed, that all these be again transmitted, and do hereby appoint, that such Presbyteries as have not yet sent up their Opinions concerning them, do send up the same to the next General Assembly. The Overtures are these : *1mo*, Anent sending up Opinions on Overtures transmitted by the Assembly. *2do*, For repealing that Part of the Form of Processes anent Exculpations. *3tio*, Anent Members of inferior Courts judging in Causes appealed from them; and that the Report concerning them be brought into an earlier Diet of the Assembly.

F

T A B L E

TABLE of the printed Acts of the General Assembly, held in the Year 1765.

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Index or Abridgement.

OF THE

Actings and Proceedings of the General Assembly of the Church of *Scotland*, held in the Year 1765, which are not printed at full Length.

AFTER Sermon by the Reverend Doctor *Alexander Gerard*, Professor of Divinity in the Maristhal College of *Aberdeen*, Moderator of the last General Assembly, the Ministers and Ruling Elders, Members of this Assembly, did convene in the Assembly House, *May 23. 1765, Sess. 1st.* The Reverend Mr *James Oswald*, Minister of the Gospel at *Methven*, was chosen Moderator, and, at the Assembly's Desire, took the Chair. *Ibid.*

The King's Commission to *John Earl of Glasgow*, to represent his Royal Person, read and recorded. *Ibid.*

The King's most gracious Letter to this Assembly, read and recorded. *Ibid.*

His Grace the Commissioner made a Speech from the Throne, but did not give the same in Writing. *Ibid.*

In return to the Lord Commissioner's Speech, the Moderator, in name of the Assembly, made a Speech, but did not give it in Writing. *Ibid.*

A Committee named for answering the King's Letter. *Ibid.*

A Committee named for revising the Commissions of this Assembly, censuring Absents from the Diets thereof, naming Ministers to preach before His Grace the King's Commissioner, receiving in Lists of the several Probationers in the several Presbyteries, in order to their being recorded, and of Students of Divinity at the several Universities. *Ibid.*

Committee for Overtures named. *Ibid.*

Committee for Bills, References, and Appeals, named. *Ibid.*

His Majesty's Royal Warrant for 1000 l. *Sterling*. delivered in to the Assembly by His Grace the Commissioner, read and ordered to be recorded.

A Diet spent in Prayer. *May 24. 1765, Sess. 2d.*

The Act 7th of Assembly 1718, for the better Dispatch of the Business of the Assembly, read, and the Observation thereof enjoined. *Ibid.*

Ministers named to preach before His Grace the King's Commissioner. *Ibid.*

The

I N D E X, 1765.

The Draught of an Answer to the King's most gracious Letter brought in and approven, and His Grace the Commissioner, at the Assembly's Request, undertakes to transmit the same to His Majesty. *Ibid.*

A Committee named to revise the Register of the Actings and Proceedings of the Commission of the late General Assembly, audite the Procurator's and Agent's Accompts, consider the State of the public Money, and prepare Overtures about the same. *Ibid.*

A Committee named to revise the Register of the Committee appointed by last Assembly for managing the Royal Bounty, and for Reformation of the *Highlands* and *Islands*. *Ibid.*

The Synods Books called for. *Ibid.*

A Committee appointed to revise the Synod Books of *Merse* and *Teviotdale*. *Ibid.*

The Synod Books of *Lothian* and *Tweeddale*, *Perth* and *Stirling*, *Fife*, *Dumfries*, *Galloway*, *Glasgow* and *Ayr*, *Argyle*, *Angus* and *Mearns*, *Aberdeen*, *Murray*, *Ross*, *Glenelg*, *Sutherland*, and the Presbytery Book of *Zetland* absent; resolved, that the reasons thereof be inquired into. *Ibid.*

The Committee for Overtures appointed to receive in from the several Members, any Instructions given to them from the several Synods or Presbyteries, class the matters therein contained, and prepare Overtures thereupon to the Assembly, and receive in any Accounts that shall be given them of the State of the Church in the North *Highlands*, particularly concerning the Growth of Popery and Superstition, to consider the same, and prepare Overtures for preventing and suppressing thereof. *Ibid.*

The last General Assembly having granted a Commission to the Rev. Mr *John Walker*, Minister at *Moffat*, to visit such parts of the Western *Highlands* and *Islands* of *Scotland*, as had not been visited by the Commissioners appointed to visit these Countries by the General Assembly 1760; resolved, that they would call for Dr *Walker's* Report, at their Diet on Monday next. *Ibid.*

A Reference from the Synod of *Dumfries* anent the Transportation of the Reverend Mr *Matthew Cleghorn*, from the Parish of *St. Andrews* in *Orkney* to the Parish of *Drysdale*, heard and considered by the Assembly; the General Assembly unanimously sustained the Presentation and Call in favour of Mr *Cleghorn*, and appointed the Presbytery of *Lochmaben* to proceed in a Process for the Transportation of Mr *Cleghorn* from the Parish of *St. Andrews* to the Parish of *Drysdale*, with all convenient Speed, and to take any Steps that might be necessary to the speedy Admission of Mr *Cleghorn*, according to the Rules of the Church. *Ibid.*

Resolve anent taking in Causes. *Ibid.*

Two Overtures, one from the Synod of *Perth* and *Stirling*,
and

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and the other from the Presbytery of *Langholm*, agreed to be taken in To-morrow. *May 27. 1765. Sess. 4.*

Two Petitions, one from the Parish of *Arrwoth*, the other from the Synod of *Galloway*, relative to Mr *Carson* Minister at *Arrwoth*, were read, and, after some debate, the General Assembly resolved to take under their consideration To-morrow, whether these Petitions should be received or not. *Ibid.*

A Report from the Procurator anent the several Applications for Shares of the public money, referred to the Committee on the public funds. *Ibid.*

The Synod Book of *Lothian* and *Tweeddale* produced, and a Committee appointed to revise the same. *Ibid.*

The Synod Book of *Fife* produced, and the Committee appointed to revise the same. *Ibid.*

Dr *Walker's* Report called for, produced, and read, and a Committee appointed to consider the said Report, and the Report of the former Commissioners; together with a Proposal for applying the Royal Bounty to the Purpose of new Erections in the *Highlands*, and prepare such Overtures as might occur to them thereupon, and report to this Assembly, if they could, or otherwise to continue to meet from time to time, and report to the Commission, or to next Assembly, and the Thanks of the Assembly were given to Dr *Walker* by the Moderator, for his faithful and diligent execution of his Commission. *Ibid.*

Two Petitions, one from the Presbytery of *Peebles*, and the other from the Parish of *Newlands*, relative to Dr *David Dickson* read, and a Committee appointed to consider the same, and report an opinion thereon. *Ibid.*

An Overture from the Synod of *Lothian* and *Tweeddale*, together with the overtures from the Synod of *Perth* and *Stirling*, and Presbytery of *Langholm*, which were appointed to be considered at this Diet, anent the General Assembly's judging in all Causes of Importance themselves, and not to refer the same to their Commissions; particularly, processes respecting the moral Character of Ministers of this Church, called for and read; and, after some Debate, were ordered to ly on the Table. *May 28. 1765. Sess. 5.*

An Overture anent the inclosing of Glebes referred to the Commission, that they might digest and ripen the same for the next Assembly. *Ibid.*

A Petition for Mess. *James Lestly* and others, Ministers of the Presbytery of *North-ishes*, praying the Direction of the Assembly anent carrying on a Process against Mr *Thomas Lyell*, &c. read, the General Assembly appointed the Committee for Bills to meet this Afternoon at seven o'Clock, and the Petitioners were ordained to lay all Papers they had, relating to the Matter contained in said Petition, before said Committee. *Ibid.*

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The Petitions of the Parish of *Anwoth* and Synod of *Galloway* anent Mr *Robert Carson* considered by the Assembly. The Assembly found, that the Petition from the Synod of *Galloway*, contained Expressions indecent and unbecoming, and that the said Petition was incompetent, and therefore rejected the same : And found the Petition of the Parish of *Anwoth* incompetent in both Parts of the Desire thereof, and rejected it also. *Ibid.*

Resolve anent Clauses. *Ibid.* May 29. 1765. Sess. 6.

An Appeal of Mr *Robert Park*, Minister of the Gospel at *Old Monkland*, against a Sentence of the Presbytery of *Hamilton*, heard. The General Assembly, in regard there was no private Party offered to insist in a Prosecution by way of Libel against Mr *Park*, and in regard of the whole Circumstances of this Case, Found, that there was no Necessity for giving Mr *Park* a Libel ; as his Conduct had been imprudent and irregular rather than criminal, appointed the Moderator to rebuke Mr *Park* ; which was accordingly done. *Ibid.*

An Appeal of *George-James Duke* of *Hamilton* and *Brandon*, and his Tutors, and Mr *Lawrence Walls*, Preacher of the Gospel, his Grace's Presentee, for supplying the Vacancy of the Kirk of *Shotts*, against a sentence of the Presbytery of *Hamilton*, finding Mr *Walls* not qualified to be Minister of the Parish of *Shotts*, heard.

The General Assembly remitted to the Presbytery of *Hamilton*, to proceed of new to take Trial of Mr *Walls's* Qualifications, and appointed them to take down the Questions and his Answers in Writing ; and, in case they should proceed to a Sentence from which an Appeal should be taken, that the said Questions and Answers, together with all the Discourses delivered by him, as Parts of Trials, with the Presbytery's Remarks, which should also be taken down in Writing, should be transmitted to the superior Courts. *Ibid.*

Resolve anent Causes. *Ibid.* May 30. 1765. Sess. 7.

Upon reading the Minutes of Yesterday, the Parties in the Cause of *Shotts* being at the bar, and having objected that there seemed to be an Ambiguity in Part of the Minute respecting the Trials to be taken of Mr *Walls* ; the General Assembly declared, that, by the sentence passed Yesterday, the former Trials were set aside, and that their appointment respected the Discourses which the Presbytery should prescribe to him, and other Trials they should take of him, in consequence of that remit. *Ibid.*

A Petition for Mess. *Tule* and others, for a Viaticum, refused. *Ib.*

The several Synods appointed to meet this Afternoon in the ordinary Places, in order to name the Nominators of the ensuing Commission of this Assembly. *Ibid.*

An Appeal of the Right Honourable *John Earl of Hopeton*, and the whole other Heretors, Elders, and Parishioners of the Parish of *Kirkliston*, against a Sentence of the Presbytery of *Lochmaben*, refusing to transport the Rev. Mr *James Lindsay* from

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from the Parish of *Lochmaben* to the Parish of *Kirkliston*, being heard, the General Assembly unanimously reversed the Sentence of the Presbytery of *Lochmaben*, and Transported Mr *Lindsay* from the Parish of *Lochmaben* to the Parish of *Kirkliston*, and appointed the Presbytery of *Linlithgow* to proceed to the Settlement of Mr *Lindsay* as Minister of the Parish of *Kirkliston* with all convenient Speed. *Ibid.*

An Appeal of Mr *John Anderson* Minister of the Gospel at *Glendovan*, from a Sentence of the Synod of *Perth* and *Stirling*, deposing him from the Office of the holy Ministry, being called, the Counsel for the Appellant represented, that they were not prepared to plead the Cause, and craved a Delay till To-morrow. Some of the Members having observed that the Cases had not been timeously distributed, so as to prepare them sufficiently for judging in the Cause, the General Assembly delayed the Consideration of the same till To-morrow. *Ibid.*

Mr *John Chiesly* Minister at *St. Monance* appeared at the Bar, and signified, that he now withdrew an Appeal which he had taken from a Sentence of the Presbytery of *St. Andrews*. The General Assembly declared the said Appeal fallen from. *Ibid.*

The Accompts of the Procurator and Agent for the Church, with the Report of the Committee on the public Accompts thereon, brought in and ordered to lye on the Table till another Diet. *Ibid.*

A Petition for *John MacLellan*, and *Robert Gurlay*, both of the Parish of *Anwoth*, Commissioners for several Heretors, Elders, and many of the Heads of Families of the said Parish, praying, that it might please the Venerable Assembly to appoint their Clerk to recal three Letters mentioned in said Petition from the Reverend Mr *Robert Carson*, Minister of the said Parish of *Anwoth*, or his Agent, whose Receipt stood for the same, that they might be marked by the Moderator, and delivered upon Receipt, in order to be founded on in a Process to be intended against the said Mr *Robert Carson*, before the Presbytery of *Kirkcudbright*, or to take such Steps in the Premises as to the Venerable Assembly should seem meet. To which Petition Answers were given in for Mr *Carson*; which Petition and Answers being read, the General Assembly refused the Desire of the Petition. *Ibid.*

An Overture concerning the Schism in the Church of *Scotland* being read, a Motion was made by a Member, that the Overture should be transmitted to the several Presbyteries of this Church, and they appointed to inquire after the Number of Meeting-Houses erected by those who had seceded from this Church, and the State of the Congregations thereto belonging; and also to inquire concerning the Rise, Progress, and Causes of such Secession, and to transmit what Informations they receive to the next Assembly. And
another

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another Motion being made by another Member, that a Committee should be appointed to consider said Overture, and remit their Opinion thereon to the next General Assembly; and, after a very long Debate, the General Assembly agreed to put the following State of a Vote, *Transmit*, or *Appoint*. And the Rolls being called, and Votes marked, it carried *Appoint*; whereupon the General Assembly appointed a Committee to consider the fore said Overture, and to report to the next General Assembly. *Ibid.*

The Cause of Mr *John Anderson* again delayed till To-morrow. A Committee named to take under their Consideration the Form of Process, and what Additions or Alterations may be made thereupon; or whether a new Form of Process is necessary; and to bring an Overture on that Subject to the next General Assembly. *June 1. 1765. Sess. 9.*

Messrs. *Hunter* at *Saline*, *Daling* at *Cliesh*, and *Spence* at *Orwell*, who had been suspended from sitting in a judicative Capacity in Presbyteries, Synods, or Assemblies, reponed. *Ibid.*

A Petition for Mr *John Chiesly* Minister at *St. Monance*, craving a Share of the Public Money, to enable Him to carry on his Defence against a Process he was concerned in before the Commissary of *St Andrews*, for an alledged Freedom upon a Person's Character, when delivering his Opinion as a Judge in an Ecclesiastic Court; which Petition being read, the General Assembly ordered him *L. 5 Sterling* to enable him to carry on the Defence in the said Process, and recommended him to the Procurator and Agent of the Church. *Ibid.*

The Committee appointed to consider the Petition of the Presbytery of *Peebles* and Parish of *Newlands* respecting Dr *David Dickson*, gave in their Report; which was read and approved of by the Assembly. *Ibid.*

The Committee appointed to consider the Petition of Messrs *James Lesly*, &c. anent Mr *Thomas Lyell* Minister at *Sandy*, gave in their Report, which was read and approved of by the Assembly. *Ibid.*

The Committee appointed to consider Dr *Walker's* Report, gave in their Opinion thereon; which Opinion being read, the General Assembly unanimously agreed thereto, and appointed a Committee to prepare an Address to his Majesty, and to report to the Assembly on *Monday*; and appointed the first Committee to correspond with the Commissioners on the forfeited Estates. *Ibid.*

The Report of the Visitors of the Commission-Book given in and read, and the Commission's Conduct approved of. The Assembly's Thanks given from the Chair to the Moderator of the Commission, for their Faithfulness and Diligence in the Affairs committed to them, and their Book ordered to be attested. *Ibid.*

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The Report of the Trustees of the Widows Fund given in, and ordered to lie on the Table till another Diet. *Ibid.*

The Persons appointed, as Nominators of the Commission from the several Synods, ordered to give in their Names to the Clerk on Monday Morning. *Ibid.*

The Report of the Committee named to consider the Applications for Shares of the Public-Money, given in and read, together with the Procurator's Opinion thereon, and laying before the Assembly a State of the Public Fund of the Church, and of the Amount of the Debt; the first Part of the Report, *viz.* concerning Petitions transmitted, the Assembly appointed the following Persons Creditors on the public Fund, for the Sums after-mentioned, to become due to them, after the Debts already contracted upon the Funds are cleared, *viz.*

Mr Donald M'Leod Minister of Glenelg, for	L. 15 0 0
Mr John Downie Minister of Gairloch,	15 0 0
Mr James Robertson Minister of Lochbroom, a Sum not exceeding	15 0 0
Mr John Maxwell Minister of the Gospel at New- Machar,	20 0 0
Mr James Nicolson Minister as Durness,	20 0 0
Mr William Grant Minister at Kilmanivaig,	15 0 0
Mr Robert Thomson Minister of Killeen,	50 0 0

The Synod Book of *Merse* and *Teviotdale* attested. *Ibid.*

The Synod Book of *Lothian* and *Tweeddale* attested. *Ibid.*

The General Assembly ordered the several Synods, whose Books were absent, to send up the same to next General Assembly. *Ibid.*

A Letter from the Presbytery of *Abertarph*, craving, that the General Assembly would order the Missionary-ministers employed among them, to attend their Meetings, and be associated Members, on account of the Smallness of their Number in said Presbytery.

Which Letter was read, and the Desire thereof refused. *Ibid.*

An Appeal of Mr *John Anderson* Minister of the Gospel at *Glendovan*, from a Sentence of the Synod of *Perth* and *Stirling*, deposing him from the Office of the Holy Ministry, heard; the General Assembly delayed giving judgment thereon till Monday. *Ibid.*

The Nominators of the Commission gave in their Report. *Edinburgh, June 3. 1765. Sess. ult.*

The Report of the Visitors of the Royal Bounty-Register given in and read, the Conduct of the Managers approved of, and their Book ordered to be attested. *Ibid.*

Upon a Motion, the General Assembly ordered, that all future Applications to the Committee of the Royal Bounty, should, instead of two Months, be only one Month upon the Table. *Ibid.*

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The Report of the Trustees for managing the Fund for a Provision to Ministers Widows, &c. containing a State of the Fund under their Management, and an Account of their Proceedings since last Assembly being called for, was read and approved of, and ordered to be recorded in the separate Register kept for that Purpose. *Ibid.*

Act approving of the Accompt of Mr *David Dalrymple* Advocate, Procurator for the Church, his Intromissions with His Majesty's Allowances for defraying the public Charges of the Church, for *Lady-day, Midsummer, Michaelmas,* and *Christmas*, 1764, and appointing that the Balance of *L. 231 : 6 : 10* in his Hands, be charged in his next Accompt. *Ibid.*

Act approving the Accompt of *James Edmonstone*, Agent for the Church, and Sub Clerk to the General Assembly, and appointing that he charge himself in his next Accompt with the Sum of *L. 15 : 4 : 10½ Sterling* in his Hands. *Ibid.*

The Report of the Committee appointed to prepare an Address to His Majesty, called for and given in; which Address being read over, was unanimously approved of by the Assembly, and His Grace the Commissioner was pleased, at the Assembly's request, to undertake to transmit the said Address to His Majesty. *Ibid.*

The Committee appointed to correspond with the Commissioners on the annexed Estates, were also appointed to correspond with His Majesty's Ministers. *Ibid.*

The Committee on the Window-Tax continued with the same Powers and Instructions that were originally given to them, and Dr *Wishart* authorised to convene the said Committee, when Occasion should require. *Ibid.*

A Report by the Presbytery of *Jedburgh*, anent the Schoolmaster's Salary at *Crailing* given in, read, and ordered to be recorded. *Ibid.*

The General Assembly proceeded to give Judgment in the Cause of Mr *John Anderson*: The Moderator being a Party, Dr *Gerard*, at the Assembly's Desire, took the Chair. The General Assembly, after long reasoning, whether to affirm the Sentence of the Synod, or, as was proposed by a Member, and seconded, that the Sentence should be reversed, and Mr *Anderson* suspended from the Office of the Ministry till the next Synod; the General Assembly agreed to put the following State of a Vote, *Affirm the Sentence of the Synod, or Suspend*; and the Rolls being called, and Votes marked, it carried by one Vote, *Affirm*; therefore the General Assembly affirmed the Sentence of the Synod of *Perth* and *Stirling*, deposing Mr *Anderson* from the Office of the Holy Ministry. *Ibid.*

The Moderator resumed the Chair. *Ibid.*

The Petition of the Presbytery of *Biggar* referred to the Commission. *Ibid.*

The Petition of Mr *Youngson* referred to the Commission. *Ibid.*

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- The Petition of the Presbytery of *Lanark*, referred to the Commission. *Ibid.*
- The Cause of Mr *Ralston* Surgeon in *Glasgow*, referred to the Commission. *Ibid.*
- Recommendation, the Presbytery of *Tain*, referred to the Committee on the Royal Bounty. *Ibid.*
- Recommendation, the Presbytery of *Dornoch*, referred to the Commission. *Ibid.*
- Reference anent the Settlement of *Liberton*, referred to the Committee on the Royal Bounty. *Ibid.*
- Petition of the Presbytery of *Fordyce*, referred to the Commission. *Ibid.*
- Petition, Mr *Robert Thomson*, referred to the Commission. *Ibid.*
- Petition, Mr *George Monro*, referred to the Royal Bounty. *Ibid.*
- Petition for Mr *Kenneth Morison* being read, the General Assembly refused the Desire thereof, reserving to Mr *Morison* Liberty to apply to the Committee on the *Irish* Bursary, as directed by the Act of Assembly. *Ibid.*
- List of Probationers produced, and ordered to be recorded. *Ibid.*
- Protestations admitted. *Ibid.*
- A Committee named to revise the Minutes of the Assembly's Proceedings at this and all other Diets thereof, and to pitch upon such of the Acts of the Assembly as are to be standing Rules, in order to their being printed. *Ibid.*
- The Moderator's Speech to the Assembly and his Majesty's Commissioner. *Ibid.*
- The Lord Commissioner's Speech in return thereto. *Ibid.*
- Act appointing the next Meeting of the Assembly. *Ibid.*
- Then the Assembly concluded.

F I N I S.

ROBERT FLEMING,

Printer to the Church of *Scotland*,

BEGS Leave to acquaint such of the Kirk-sessions in *Scotland*, who have neglected to supply themselves with Copies of the printed ACTS of ASSEMBLY, that he has been lately at the Charge of reprinting all those that were out of print; so that every Kirk-session may now be supplied, either with complete Setts from the Beginning, or with the Acts of any particular Year that may be wanting, at the small Price of one Shilling for each Year's Acts

The Acts are printed and published every Year in *August*, or *September*; at which Time, upon due Notice given, they may be regularly transmitted to every Kirk-session, by Carriers or otherways, as directed: The annual Price is one Shilling, which Sessions, at a great Distance, may remit, when the Minister sends up his annual Payment for the Widows Fund.